

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 15th May 2017 at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mrs J Addison Vice-Chairman, G R Addison, P Goodyer, S Peters, Mrs J Peters and R Widdowson.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor J Wisson and seven Members of the public.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 23rd May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Parish Councillors Wayne Bond and David Beattie, District Councillors Mrs B E Boddington and R J West and PCSO Richard Braddick.

3. REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Mrs Addison, Vice-Chairman reviewed the activities of the Parish Council during 2016/17. She referred to the completion of the LHI Scheme to the B1043 and the award of £3000 grant from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation towards a feasibility study for a proposed cycle path to St Neots. Councillor Mrs Addison commended the work undertaken initially by the Cycle Path Group led by Councillor Beattie and subsequently efforts by Councillor Beattie to reach a position whereby Sustrans were about to start the study. In terms of other successes, Mrs Addison welcomed the setting up of the Parish Council's Facebook Site as another means to communicate with residents, the contributions of new PCSO Richard Braddick and the award of a new grounds maintenance contract for a fixed period of 3 years.

Although it was disappointing that the 2017/18 application for LHI funding had not been successful, it did present an opportunity to gather support and evidence for commencement of the same process in 2018/19. Whilst it had been very difficult to find a new Editor for the Paxton Post, the Parish Council was now hopeful that a new arrangement to relaunch the post had been secured.

The Parish Council continued to support other organisations in the village by way of contributions towards the Recreation Ground Committee, to the PCC for the Holy Trinity Church and to the Community Shop

On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Mrs Addison thanked David Lloyd for his endeavours to maintain the Village Website and expressed her appreciation to the County, District and Parish Councillors who had contributed positively to meetings and the work of the Parish Council over the past year.

The Vice-Chairman invited those present to join her for a glass of wine at the end of the meeting.

4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Julie Wisson

Councillor Wisson was pleased to report on her recent successful re-election as County Councillor for St Neots and Gransden Ward and thanked residents of Great Paxton for their support. She went on to describe her position on the Children's & Young Persons Committee and her role as a Corporate Parent for those children in Care in Cambridgeshire. Currently, there were 470 children requiring care in the County, a very high number, which brought pressure to bear on the County's budget. Councillor Wisson described her recent attendance at a 'Voices Matter' Forum – which presented children with the opportunity to speak directly to the County Council and Social Services. The success of this joint working has been recognised with an award.

It was noted that the County Council met six times a year and that it had set its budget at the February meeting. In 2017, the County Council had agreed to increase its budget by 2% with the additional resource ring fenced to adult social care. Councillor Wisson added that she regularly attended Parish Council and Community meetings and was very involved in meetings/discussions on the proposed A428 Scheme. All those she had spoken to had supported the northern orange route for the new road but an announcement as to the 'preferred' route still was awaited and was expected in the Autumn.

Councillor Wisson closed by saying how much she enjoyed working with the Parish Council and encouraged the Council to contact her should they need any assistance.

District Councillor Mrs B E Boddington

Although absent from the meeting, Councillor Mrs Boddington provided the following written report –

'A busy year at Huntingdonshire District Council with the appointment of a new Executive Leader, Councillor Robin Howe and his Deputy Councillor Graham Bull.

The former leader Councillor Jason Ablewhite had been successful in his election as the Police and Crime Commissioner last May and was making changes and improvements to the Police Service. His office was now based at Hinchingsbrooke Police HQ and if you need to contact him at any time his address is - Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, P.O. Box 686 Huntingdon PE29 9LA email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

My main Committees are Licensing and Protection and two Scrutiny Committees along with my monthly Parish Council Meetings. This coming year will be my last year as a District Councillor after 15 years' service.

It is an 'All Out' scenario for elections in 2018 instead of by thirds. All 52 Councillors will be seeking election. This is very much a cost saving exercise.

This year we have had the first Mayoral Election for the Combined Authorities – Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and Peterborough. This will bring many benefits with Government funding being released. The new Mayor is James Palmer and he will be making other appointments together with representatives to make the combined authority.

Lastly but not least our thanks our due to your Parish Councillors and Clerk Christine who work hard for the village throughout the year. **I am here for All the Electorate.'**

Councillor R J West

Councillor West was also absent from the meeting but forwarded an advance copy of his report for inclusion on the website and in the minutes as follows –

'Customer Services - Another Council year has passed by. It has been a difficult year with breakdowns in services and decisions made which did not serve the best interests of parish councils. Customers Service need to improve together with the culture that Members and Staff are there to serve the electorate. I remain hopeful that with the program of putting yourself in the shoes of the customer, we can make council services better via Online/phone and quicker with more choices. Best example I can give is bank services now provide online banking and ATM machines. No longer do you have to visit the branch between 9-3 or have to travel to the bank branch for services.

Public Transport - I am now a member of the Board of Huntingdonshire Association of Community Transport which provides bus services for village residents. I would welcome support from parish councils to encourage residents to become members of the community transport service. It offers social events as well as a ring and ride service. There are also community car schemes providing transport for hospital and surgery appointments and always a need for volunteer drivers.

Responsibilities - I continue to serve on the following Committees at the District Council: Corporate Governance, Licensing (including the Licensing Sub –Committee), Licensing and Protection and Development Management along with the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Customers). I am vice -chairman of the Employment Committee and vice – chairman of the Council. I am also Chairman of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group working with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Trunk roads - There is a need to:

- monitor the construction of the A14 to ensure residents are protected from noise, pollution and that soft landscaping is provided to maintain the landscape;
- work with colleagues to be fully informed on the A428 improvement plans between Black Cat Roundabout and Caxton Gibbet; and
- work with colleagues to gain improvements to the A1.

Contact details: richard.west@huntingdonshire.gov.uk richard.west@buckdencambs.co.uk
Telephone No. 01480 811467

5. GREAT PAXTON ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

As PCSO Braddick was unable to be present at the meeting due to a late change in shifts, he provided the following written report –

'This report covers the period of 15th May 2016 to 14th May 2017. During this period Cambridgeshire Police have been called to the following incidents in the Great Paxton area -

7 Suspect circumstances

- 11 Road Traffic Accidents
- 5 Road Offence
- 3 Burglary (dwelling)
- 1 Thefts or Attempted Theft
- 2 Criminal Damage
- 4 Theft from a motor vehicle
- 1 Violence
- 3 Anti-Social Behaviour
- 7 Abandoned Vehicles

We have certainly seen criminal activity in the villages over the past 3 or 4 months, with Buckden, The Offord's and Great Gransden experiencing the highest rate of crimes, which have included burglaries, theft from motor vehicles and theft of expensive alloy wheels from motor vehicles. It makes it more important that we all remain as vigilant as we can be and report any suspicious activity both day and night. Only last week a home in Buckden as well as 4 other properties in the Huntingdon area were broken into during broad daylight. The Buckden home was between midday and 1pm. If it doesn't look quite right, it probably isn't.

I would like to bring to your attention door to door sellers who are working the areas on a regular basis, these can be males selling kitchen and bathroom accessories from a holdall to fish sellers. We would like to chat with them if you see or have them knocking at the door. Most will not have a peddler's licence which is an offence. There is also a fish van blue in colour with 3 males in white coats going door to door, last seen in Offord Cluny two weeks ago. We would very much like to know if they have been in Great Paxton, or may still come to the village.

We have been called to several abandoned vehicles recently which are considered to be a parking nuisance. We are limited to what we can ticket in regards to parking close to a junction and it needs to be a physical obstruction rather than a visible one. I have been and checked several vehicles recently all of which are not reported as stolen.

Lastly, can I ask that if you or members of the community are not on e-cops, then please pass on the registration information by going to www.ecops.org.uk this will keep you up to date with recent crimes, prevention advice and any other local information that might affect you?

I am always accessible to any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Richard.braddick@cambs.pnn.police.uk

6. PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The Parish Meeting received and noted the draft statement of accounts of the Parish Council for the financial year 2016/17, a copy of which had been circulated at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC FORUM

The attention of the meeting was drawn to an approach that had been made to residents of London Lane by an adjacent landowner who had offered to purchase part of their garden land. It was understood that the landowner wished to develop 10 houses on the land, once acquired. As far as the resident was aware no property owner had accepted the offer. It became apparent, during discussion that a similar offer had been made to residents of Brookside. A short explanation of the planning process followed during which residents were assured that no development would be able to take place without neighbour and Parish Council consultation.

In response to a question, Councillor Goodyer explained the background to and current position with respect to the Cycle Path and the opportunity that the Parish Council had to use grant of £3000 towards the cost of a feasibility study to be undertaken by Sustrans.

A resident highlighted the varied views held by villagers on the Parish Council's proposals for traffic calming measures on the High Street depending on where they actually lived in the village. Whilst those present were unable to understand the objections that had been raised, it was agreed that if the application for funding in 2018/19 was to be successful, the Parish Council would need to demonstrate that speeding along the High Street was a serious problem. County Councillor Wisson suggested that those villages that had previously received support had had a successful 'Speed watch' operation in place. Mention also was made of speed monitoring equipment previously offered on loan to the Parish Council by the Highways Officer. Although previous calls for Speed watch volunteers had not been successful, the meeting agreed to try again and to use 'Facebook' and 'share' the item with other groups in the village to try to generate some interest.

Lastly, it was reported that the Recreation Ground Committee hoped to make use of an area of land between the Recreation Ground and The Bell Public House for either a MUGA, community garden or allotments.

8. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was noted that the next Annual Parish meeting would take place on 21st May 2018.

The meeting then closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman

